



George W. Bush with advisor Karl Rove

Rove Schemes for Illegal Alien Vote

The White House is sacrificing Social Security in an attempt to capture the Hispanic vote

By James P. Tucker Jr.

In a thinly disguised bid for a bigger share of the Hispanic vote, President Bush called on Jan. 6 for allowing illegal aliens to obtain legal status. But his political guru, Karl Rove, says you must not call it "amnesty."

In an effort to soften the shock for the Republican base, Rove had White House functionaries dole out the plan in bits and pieces for days leading up to Bush's formal amnesty announcement.

Under the proposal, illegal immigrants from Mexico who pay Social Security taxes but provide false identification numbers would be rewarded by being allowed to collect benefits. Between 8 million and 12 million aliens who entered the country illegally could immediately

See SOCIAL SECURITY, Page 4

AREA BELOW FOR MAILING ADDRESS

IRS Gives No Quarter

Business owner faces life in prison for tax stance

By John Tiffany

After a controversial trial, a businessman and tax honesty advocate who challenged IRS tax demands now faces a possible 129 years in prison after a federal jury this week found him guilty of multiple charges on withholding taxes.

For Richard Simkanin, a 59-year-old Texan, it was his second trial, the first having been declared a mistrial when the jury deadlocked. On Wednesday, a second jury returned guilty verdicts on 25 felony counts, each of which carries a maximum five-year sentence. They also declared him guilty of four misdemeanor charges.

Until a few years ago, he was the little-known owner of Arrow Custom Plastics in Bedford, Texas. But, in March 2001 when he and four other people took out a full-page ad in *USA Today* declaring their opposition to the federal income tax, his life changed dramatically and he soon found himself at the wrong end of the law.

WIDESPREAD ATTENTION

His case initially attracted widespread attention when he accepted a plea bargain that was thrown out because of a technicality. The technicality in question was that the plea bargain agreement had misstated the maximum possible sentence he could receive—three years instead of five on each of 25 counts.

When he refused to place his signature on an amended plea bargain, he was sent to trial. After the first jury deadlocked, his supporters felt he had a real chance of winning second time round, but those hopes were dashed this week.

For those who feel that the IRS abuses its power, especially in respect to individual citizens, Simkanin's legal battle has transformed him into a patriot and political prisoner.

See IRS PROTESTER GIVEN, Page 21

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Here, two IRS protesters hold a banner demanding the impeachment of the judge who found Richard Simkanin guilty of a major violation of U.S. tax law.

Startling Revelations About 1995 OK City Bomb Conspiracy

By Michael Collins Piper

In an explosive report, independent investigators J.D. Cash and former Marine Lt. Col. Roger Charles have pinpointed evidence, taken from a recently declassified FBI document, which indicates that Andreas

Strassmeir, a former German army intelligence officer operating for seven years on American soil posing as a "neo-Nazi," was an informant working under cover on behalf of Morris Dees and his Birmingham, Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

The document, an electronic four-page Teletype message, dated Jan. 4, 1996, was sent by the office of then-FBI Director Louis Freeh to FBI offices involved in the nationwide Oklahoma bombing investigation. It was first exposed in the Dec. 14, 2003, issue of an Oklahoma newspaper, *The McCurtain Daily Gazette*.

Although heavily "redacted," the document confirms what AFP and the now-defunct *Spotlight* reported about Strassmeir and his close friend and attorney, the enigmatic Kirk Lyons. Within the declassified document, the

See FBI MEMO SAYS, Page 13



STRASSMEIR

PERSONAL

From the Editor

THIS WEEK WE HAVE on our front page the story of Richard Simkanin, the Texas businessman who is being held in jail for the crime of refusing to withhold taxes from his employees. Simkanin took the highly controversial—and dangerous—position of opposing federal income tax withholding regulations formulated by the IRS.

Prior to the trial, Simkanin was a successful businessman who reportedly ran a \$5 million a year plastics business. Now, he has been forced to spend close to \$200,000 to defend himself and is still looking at a prison sentence of as much as 129 years—at the average cost to U.S. taxpayers of \$20,000 a year—and fines in excess of \$250,000.

Whether you agree with the validity of the federal income tax is not the issue. The grave injustice here is in the fact that a previous jury could not find him guilty which forced a mistrial. But, with unlimited resources, federal prosecutors were able to go after him again and bring more charges, essentially ensuring a conviction.

Our hearts go out to Simkanin and his family. He is yet another American who hardly deserves to rot in jail for the victimless crime of simply taking a stand against the federal government and doing what he believes is right.

CPetherick

Christopher Petherick
Managing Editor



Ephedra Sales
Are Booming
Before Ban

EPHEDRA SALES BOOM

Sales of ephedra products are booming as the public rushes to stock up in advance of a government ban, retailers report. The Food and Drug Administration announced it would ban the herbal ingredient in March (AFP, Jan. 5 and 12, 2004).

GOOD GUN CONTROL

Brenda Davis was sitting on a sofa with her 2-year-old daughter when a man broke into the living room by smashing a window, the *Anderson* (S.C.) *Independent-Mail* reports. The intruder, however, was prevented from hurting the family when Davis's husband, Charles, shot and killed him.

RICH MAN'S WAR

Bechtel National Inc. was awarded a \$1.8 billion contract Jan. 6 for more reconstruction work in Iraq. It had earlier received a \$1 billion contract. Bechtel is headed by George Shultz, secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan. Shultz has represent-



ed the president at secret Bilderberg meetings.

HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS

A judge has granted a stay on his early court decision that U.S. soldiers cannot be forced to take the anthrax vaccine, effectively allowing the military to continue forcing the shots on GIs, reports Reuters. To the Pentagon's delight, the Food and Drug Administration recently found that the vaccines are "safe" and "effective" against anthrax. As a result of the FDA's findings, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan—who acknowledged that he found the federal agency's conclusions so soon after his previous ruling "highly suspicious"—granted the Bush administration's request in late December. Many soldiers have complained of adverse reactions after receiving the vaccine.

TEMPLE OF DOOM

Chris Temple, fast-talking promoter of various financial schemes that apparently mulcted some \$1.6 mil-

lion from trusting investors, faces trial on March 8. Federal prosecutor John W. Vaudreuil says that originally Temple was charged with 67 counts of mail fraud and money laundering, each of which could have brought a prison term of 20 years, but a term of 6 or 7 years is more realistic. At one time, Temple contributed articles to the now defunct *Spotlight* newspaper and edited a newsletter, *The National Investor*, until he and Paul Hall took over *Media Bypass* from Jim Thomas. Persons with evidence against Temple should contact the U.S. attorney for the Western District in Madison, Wisc.

NOT A MERRY CHRISTMAS

For 40 years, controversial British historian David Irving has been collecting rare historical books, papers and primary source materials. This Christmas Eve, however, a package received at Irving's office in London contained an application from a law firm hired by Deborah Lipstadt to transfer all of Irving's lifetime possessions to Lipstadt. Irving had lost a libel suit to Lipstadt in 2000 after he accused her of smearing him in a book she wrote. Irving's materials had been seized in May 2002 and were being held by an official trustee. A court is expected to hear the case on Jan. 23.

HAIRY DILEMMA

The *Milwaukee* City Council is considering mandating beards for men—or buy a \$10 "shaving permit"—as part of celebrations of the town's 150th anniversary. Men in the town of 1,800—near Milwaukee—would grow whiskers until the anniversary celebration in June, when a beard-growing contest would be held.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

The Naval Academy at Annapolis has expelled a cadet for doing what every realistic person assumes young males in the military will do: make "inappropriate contact" with girl cadets. Before political correctness

LITTLE BROTHER'S
BIG BUCKS



Neil Bush, the president's younger brother, made at least \$171,370 in a single day of buying and selling stock shares in a small U.S. high-tech firm where he had previously been a consultant, Associated Press reports. The July 19, 1999 purchase and quick sale of stock from Kopin Corp. of Taunton, Mass., came on a day the company received good news about a new Asian client that sent its stock value soaring. "My timing in this transaction was very fortunate," Bush told AP.

(cultural communism) supplanted common sense, only young men attended Annapolis and West Point and only men were soldiers. The military has one purpose: to deliver violence effectively and efficiently. The history of all nations demonstrates that having women in the military just doesn't pan out for many reasons.

MYSTERY "RIGHTS"

Five illegal aliens have sued seven universities in Virginia for refusing to enroll them at low, in-state tuition rates. They wanted to anonymously argue that their "rights" were violated. U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis refused to allow them to sue anonymously. Lawyers for the mystery plaintiffs said it will be difficult to pursue the case because their clients fear deportation for having criminally entered the country.

DOUBLE RACIAL STANDARD

In Canton, Ga., students were forbidden to wear T-shirts bearing the Confederate emblem because two black families complained. But, the students point out, black students wear clothes made by FUBU, a black-owned company whose acronym means "For Us, By Us." School officials had no objection when black students said the acronym also means "farmers used to beat us." Latino students wear T-shirts bearing the Mexican flag.

PROUD PATRIOTS

In 1990, 75 percent of Americans said they are "very proud" of their nationality, according to World Values Survey. A decade later, in 2000, the number dropped to 72 percent.

GRASS IN GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE



Ralph Nader, the Green candidate for president in 2000, said he will not be the party's nominee this year. He is considering running as an independent in the 2004 election.

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Economic Analysis

By Gonzalo Baeza

New Free Trade Agreement Benefits No One

No Surprise: CAFTA Free Trade Pact Spells Trouble for All Players Involved

A decision by the United States to enter into a free trade pact with four small Central American nations can only spell trouble for all involved. It is likely to negatively impact U.S. agricultural workers, increase the flow of immigrants and further flood the textile market with cheap products produced in sweatshops.

The approval of CAFTA—the Central American Free Trade Agreement—will economically link the United States to El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. The move comes in the wake of the failure of the U.S. government to persuade bigger players like Brazil and Argentina to join a much wider hemisphere agreement. Some observers see this latest agreement as part of a U.S. strategy to enter into multiple free trade pacts and to eventually roll them up into one.

While the potential for damage from CAFTA to an economy the size of the United States may be judged negligible, its negative impact will be felt in certain sectors of the economy. For example, the textile industry may find its market being flooded with cheap products produced in sweatshops where workers are paid below required international rates. The United States could also become a dumping ground for surplus agricultural produce and there is a real risk that illegal immigration levels will rise. In those Central American countries signed up to the pact, there is a real likelihood that they will face greater economic woes.

The road is now paved for free traders in Washington to get the CAFTA approved in Congress by July. Although aggrieved parties in the United States and Central America could try to block the pact in their respective legislatures, they are unlikely to succeed, judging from the scarce influence that critical voices have had since the beginning of CAFTA negotiations in early 2003.

Whereas in the United States a handful of lobbies have expressed their dissatisfaction, opposition in Central America has been muted, with only sharp criticism being voiced by El Salvador's majority party, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). It has repeatedly warned about the ravaging effects that CAFTA will have on the country's farming industry, claiming it will result in workers emigrating to the U.S.

Should the FMLN win El Salvador's presidential elections in March, and pull out of the agreement, such a move would not derail CAFTA. In the United States, opposition has been spearheaded by the AFL-CIO, which along with organizations such as Human Rights Watch, have denounced the flagrant abuse of international labor laws in Central America. The U.S. textile industry, which anticipates the duty-free status of apparel flooding U.S. markets, as well as a lax interpretation of so-called "rules of origin," has been another dissenting voice.

RULES OF ORIGIN

The "rules of origin" will permit Central American nations to use fabric from countries such as China to produce clothing to be shipped to the United States. That will again provide China with a backdoor to its



REUTERS/ADAM BERNSTEIN

Above, children stand outside their home in the impoverished El Pantonal neighborhood in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. UN figures show that 74 percent of the Honduran population live in poverty. Experts are predicting that the CAFTA agreement will send even more into the ranks of the impoverished.

biggest trading rival.

If more than three years of sustained job losses in the U.S. manufacturing industry were not enough, Washington is now striking a deal with countries where factory workers earn less than a dollar an hour. The relocation of factories should also develop a trend as seen in Ecuador where a *de facto* dollarization has an economy propped up on money sent from expatriates living in the United States. Remittance to Central America from immigrants in the U.S. amount annually to \$5 billion.

The negative effects that CAFTA can potentially wreak are best seen in the agriculture industry in the United States and especially in Central America. Whereas the U.S. National Farmers Union has identified \$900 million agricultural trade deficits with CAFTA nations, that is expected to expand and the greater damage will be felt in Central America. There, with economies largely based on the production of low-priced agricultural commodities, there is greater vulnerability. During the ongoing coffee crisis alone, in which the price of coffee has dropped more than 50 percent over the past three years, the region lost 600,000 jobs out of a rural labor force of 5 million.

Agriculture in Central America is an undisputed economic cornerstone, employing from 60 percent of the active population in Guatemala to more than 20 percent of Costa Rica's labor force. Almost two thirds of the

region's rural population lives in abject poverty.

With passage of CAFTA, Central American farmers will be faced with the prospect of competing with subsidized, multinational agribusiness as their own governments cut tariffs to zero. In the meantime, farmers in the U.S. will continue working their lands as crop prices continue falling worldwide, thanks to the dismantling of the domestic farm industry undertaken by Washington since the 1990s.

This drop in the value of crops owes much to the misnamed Freedom to Farm Act of 1996 and its gradual elimination of price floors, which guaranteed a minimum price for farmers. The massive overproduction it encouraged has only pushed worldwide prices further in a race to the bottom.

The equation is so simple that it is hard to believe the free trade acolytes have not thought about it: lower crop prices for Central America's staple commodities such as rice, corn and beans mean eventual displacement of small farmers which in turn amounts to a powerful incentive to migrate from rural areas, first to the cities and then abroad, most likely to the United States.

The four Central American partners to the CAFTA regard cheap labor as one of their premium exports. Latest figures show that an estimated 300,000 Central Americans migrate to the United States every year. ★

Free Trade Fiasco

By James P. Tucker Jr.

Free Trade Flopping

Supporters acknowledge Mexico and the United States are much worse off than they were but still insist NAFTA is good

A study released Dec. 5 in Washington by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace concludes that NAFTA has been a failure but, somehow, it should be embraced.

Carnegie is always represented at secret Bilderberg meetings and unwaveringly champions its causes, such as NAFTA. The report insists that NAFTA is wonderful, and its expansion into the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) will be even greater, yet it found that:

- "NAFTA has not stemmed the flow of poor Mexicans into the United States in search of jobs; in fact, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of migrants to the United States, despite an unprecedented increase in border-control measures.

- "NAFTA has not helped the Mexican economy keep pace with the growing demand for jobs. . . . [T]he agricultural sector, where almost a fifth of Mexicans still work, has lost 1.3 million jobs since 1994 (when NAFTA

took effect).

- "Real wages for most Mexicans today are lower than they were when NAFTA took effect. . . . Despite predictions to the contrary, Mexican wages have not converged with U.S. wages.

- "About a half-million U.S. workers lost jobs as a result of the agreement."

But the Carnegie study has a solution: give away more American tax dollars. It says:

"Developing countries should bargain for meaningful financial support for transitional trade adjustment assistance, from trading partners and from international donor organizations."

In bureaucratese, "trading partner" means the United States and "donor organizations" mean the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, both major conduits for sending American tax dollars abroad.

The study supports NAFTA and its expansion into the



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY

This free trade protester from south of the border just wants the ability to feed his family.

FTAA, which is to evolve into an "American Union" similar to the European Union. It cites a joint statement issued by the United States, Mexico and Canada in 1999:

"NAFTA fuels economic growth and dynamic trade, stimulates investment while creating productive partnerships, works for small and medium-sized businesses and provides fairness and certainty." ★

Social Security System Threatened by Alien Amnesty

Continued from Page 1

apply for legal status and move down the road to citizenship.

Immigrants from Mexico who have a job waiting for them would be allowed entry under what Bush calls a "willing worker" plan. This is welcome news for such slave ships as Wal-Mart, which pays minimum wages. Immigrants can be pressured to work extra hours at no pay.

"The president has long talked about the importance of having an immigration policy that matches willing workers with willing employers," said White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan. "It's important for America to be a welcoming society. We're a nation of immigrants, and we're better for it."

White House functionaries said that making Mexican workers legal would enhance security because they could report terrorist plots without fear of being identified and deported as illegal aliens. But the likelihood of a busboy preventing disaster by tipping off authorities is miniscule compared to the threat of mad bombers crossing the border, critics said.

TERRORIST HAVEN

According to a Library of Congress study, *Organized Crime and Terrorist Activity in Mexico, 1999-2002*, former Mexican national security adviser Adolfo Aguilar Zinser said in May 2001: "Spanish and Islamic terrorist groups are using Mexico as a refuge."

In an affidavit, Border Patrol Agent John R. Korkin said an investigation "positively identified at least 80 Lebanese nationals that have been, or were intercepted in the process of being, smuggled into the United States" across the Mexican border.

A Mexican newspaper, *El Occidental*, reported that "at

least 200" Arabs have been smuggled into the United States across the Mexican border.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Imelda Ortiz Abdala was Mexico's consul in Lebanon. On Sept. 12, 2003, Mexican authorities arrested her "on charges of helping a smuggling ring move Arab migrants into the United States from Mexico," Associated Press reported.

In congressional testimony in 2002, Joseph Greene, then assistant Immigration and Naturalization Service commissioner, said: "Information available to the INS

indicates terrorist organizations often use human smuggling operations to move around the globe."

Said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge:

"As a country, we have to come to grips with the presence of 8 million to 12 million illegals, afford them some kind of legal status some way, but also as a country decide what our immigration policy is and then enforce it."

The United States has an immigration policy, said one critic. It is to welcome legal visitors and keep illegal aliens out. It is Ridge's job to enforce this policy. ★

There is definitely no more important book to read!

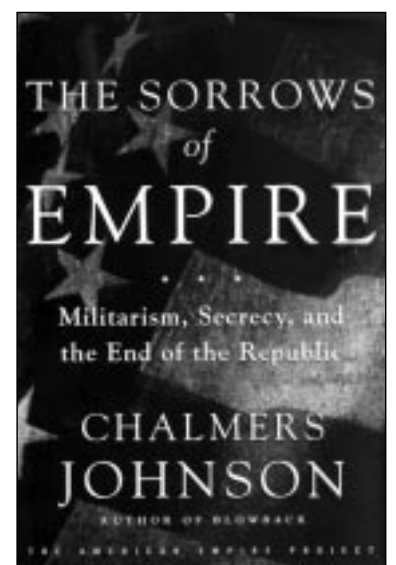
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Insight By Martin Dillon

Heroin Production Triples In Post-Taliban Afghanistan

There's big bucks in heroin—and who's to say that profiteers do not include U.S. officials who permit it

Heroin smugglers in northern Afghanistan have tripled their output of the drug despite the presence of U.S. and British Special Forces in the region and the gradual handover of security to NATO.

When the Taliban were defeated, heroin production had almost ceased. But within months, Afghan smugglers returned to Uzbekistan to purchase massive quantities of a special fertilizer needed for growing poppies from which heroin is extracted.

Smugglers in northern Afghanistan are allowed to pass through territory controlled by the warlord Gen. Rashid Dostum, who had helped the U.S. and coalition forces defeat Taliban and al Qaeda fighters holed up in places such as Mazari Sharif.

"Dostum levies a toll on the smugglers and pockets the money himself. He allows them to use the bridge linking Uzbekistan and the territory he controls in northern Afghanistan. The bridge was closed during the war and reopened to allow the U.S. military to send men and supplies into Afghanistan to encircle the Taliban," an international businessman told *American Free Press*.

"Uzbek warlords on their side of the bridge have followed Dostum's lead and are taking their cut from smugglers, using the bridge to transport the heroin to the West and other parts of Eastern Europe," the busi-

nessman added.

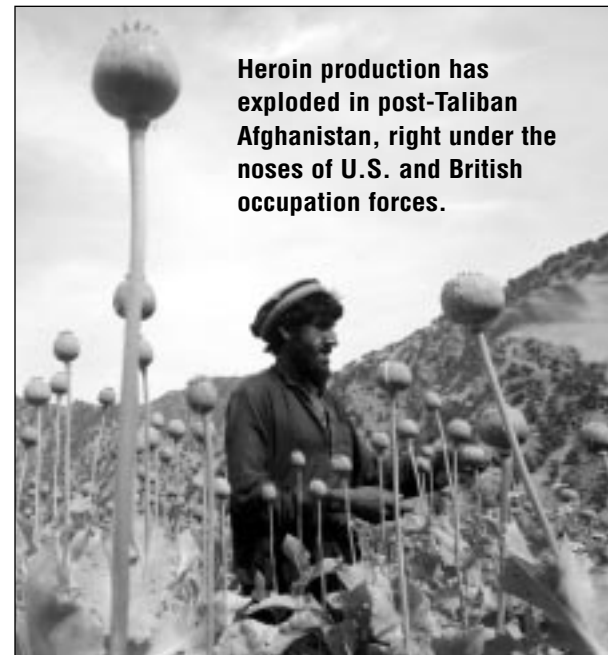
Dostum is a man with a fearsome reputation for brutality but the U.S. government chose to ignore his history because his fighters were essential in the battle with the Taliban and diehard elements of al Qaeda—many of them Saudis, Chechens and Pakistanis. In return for his support in the U.S.-led war against the Taliban, Dostum demanded millions in hard currency and only joined the fight when the money was handed over by the CIA.

"No one knows how many were subsequently killed or executed, but Dostum ensured that no one but his own people and U.S. Special Forces were allowed to witness what happened."

But a major controversy still surrounds his role in the battle at Mazari Sharif, where as many as 1,000 Taliban fighters were killed in a fortress that Dostum used as his headquarters.

"Dostum asked the Americans for \$350 million to bribe large numbers of Taliban [members] to defect to his ranks," a friend of the ruling clan in Uzbekistan told this newspaper.

"But when Dostum got the money he decided to keep it. Many Taliban [members] were deceived by his promises of dollars and walked across the battle lines to join him. He then put them in the fortress, where they were deprived of food and water and offered up for interroga-



Heroin production has exploded in post-Taliban Afghanistan, right under the noses of U.S. and British occupation forces.

tion to CIA operatives. That's when things went wrong, and they rebelled. No one knows how many were subsequently killed or executed, but Dostum ensured that no one but his own people and U.S. Special Forces were allowed to witness what happened," the source added.

In Afghanistan, heroin smuggling is not the only problem facing the U.S. government and its coalition partners, but it is a matter of serious concern for NATO and the fledgling Hamid Karzai government, which hopes to have a new constitution in place in January. Unfortunately, Karzai needs the support of warlords like Dostum and is powerless to prevent them dealing in heroin.

The profits from heroin fund not only organized crime but also terrorism. The drug finds its way into developed nations, like the United States, Britain and France, and growing economies, like China. However, the battle to rid Afghanistan of Taliban and al Qaeda hold-outs has ensured that the drug trade has not been a high priority issue for U.S. and NATO forces.

Some observers argue that, since the Chechen insurgents benefit from the drug trade, it is up to Russia to throw its hat in the ring and help coalition forces restore order and eliminate heroin drug trafficking in Afghanistan and neighboring countries like Uzbekistan. Equally, there could be greater cooperation from China.

Karzai, the ruling Afghan interim leader, has become isolated from his own people and has been unable to deal with warlords and drug traffickers. Eleven of his closest advisers have been assassinated, and he has round-the-clock protection from units of the British and U.S. Special Forces. ★

Irish-born Martin Dillon, a former longtime journalist for the British Broadcasting System, is the author of seven non-fiction books and one novel and has produced several documentaries. A prolific writer, Dillon's expertise in the field of terrorism has been acknowledged in recent years by ABC and CNN, among other media outlets.



Unlocking the True Meaning of 'The Wizard of Oz'



Get your copy of the January/February 2003 issue of *THE BARNES REVIEW* in which the old children's tale of *The Wizard of Oz* is shown to have been a political commentary of the period by its author L. Frank Baum. Was the Scarecrow a symbol of the "brainless" farming community that was at the time unaware of its political clout? Was the Tin Woodsman the symbol for factory workers whose hearts had been ripped out by industrialization and grueling work schedules? Was the Cowardly Lion a symbol for William Jennings Bryan, a goldbug who many saw as all bluster and no bite? And was the lying, conniving Wizard a symbol for the politicians of the day (or any era for that matter)? Dr. Henry Littlefield shows us how there's much more to *The Wizard of Oz* than we see at first glance. A dozen other enlightening articles that help bring history into accord with the facts. Big 72-page issue.

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International Desk By Christopher Bollyn

Has African AIDS Threat Been Hyped For Big Profit?

Disease figures inflated deliberately by activists?

Some AIDS experts, as well as critics of the major world health organizations, are beginning to question the figures supplied for the number of AIDS sufferers and those likely to die from the disease on the African continent.

One American professor has gone so far as to claim that much of what we have been told about the HIV virus which leads to AIDS reflects the "biggest scientific medical blunder of the 20th century." But the major charge by critics, and some experts, is that the AIDS threat in Africa has been hyped and the assessment that 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV is not only nonsense, but a figure deliberately inflated for political and economic reasons.

In contrast, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS, a United Nations umbrella organization, insists that an estimated 40 million people around the world are infected with HIV. The Geneva-based UN organization says the worst affected nations are those of sub-Saharan Africa. Computer projections provided by the UN claim that some 30 million Africans have HIV-AIDS.

Randall Tobias, President Bush's point man to administer \$15 billion to fight AIDS in Africa, has warned that AIDS will kill one quarter of the population of black Africa within 10 years.

But the South African writer and commentator, Rian Malan, dismisses the UN and White House estimates. He lived in the United States when the AIDS virus emerged and asserts that from the mid-1980s the estimates have been exaggerated.

"I believe that AIDS is a real problem in Africa. But there are breeds of AIDS activists and AIDS journalists who sound



DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Throughout Africa, children continue to suffer terribly from violence and disease under corrupt leadership rampant in many countries. A growing number of critics, however, are taking aim at one disease, AIDS, which, they claim, has been exaggerated for political and financial gain.

hysterical to me," he recently wrote in an article for *The Spectator* in Britain.

"On AIDS Day, they came forth like loonies drawn to a full moon, chanting that AIDS was getting worse and worse. And the only solution is to continue the *agitprop* until free access to AIDS drugs is defined as a 'basic human right' for everyone," he added.

According to Malan, some 350 million people—nearly half the population of Africa—get malaria every year but malaria medication is not seen as "a basic human right." Likewise, 2 million Africans get tuberculosis every year yet spending on AIDS research exceeds spending on TB by a ratio of 90 to one.

CONTROVERSIAL STANCE

Other critics have taken a harder and more controversial stance on the issue of HIV transmission and AIDS. Some experts believe common diseases caused by poor sanitation and poverty are being mislabeled as AIDS.

"The scandal is that long-standing ailments that are largely the product of poverty are being blamed on a sexually transmitted virus," claimed Charles Gesheker, an American expert on Africa, in his 2000 article, "AIDS in Africa: The Viral Plague That is Not."

David Rasnick, a professor of chemistry at University of California at Berkeley, was no less forthright in confronting what we have all been told about the AIDS crisis:

"It's just the same old things that Africans have been suffering and dying from for generations due to poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation, bad water, that sort of thing. We're calling it AIDS now, instead of by the old-fashioned names that were more honest."

Rasnick, who has worked in the pharmaceutical industry since 1978, went even further in a 2001 newspaper article:

"The contagious, HIV hypothesis of AIDS is the biggest scientific, medical blunder of the 20th century. The evidence is overwhelming that AIDS is not contagious, sexually transmitted, or caused by HIV. It is simple human embarrassment that is the biggest obstacle to bringing the AIDS insanity to an end. It is the fear of being so obviously and hopelessly wrong about AIDS that keeps lips sealed, the money flowing and AIDS rhetoric spiraling to stratospheric heights of absurdity."

Some experts have blamed exaggerated statistics in Africa on flawed methods that test for AIDS because antibodies found in healthy people can cause what is known as a "false positive," a term for when a test gives an incorrect positive reading.

Antibodies produced in response to a simple infection like a cold or the flu or a vaccination can signal a positive reaction on an HIV test. Pregnancy can also cause a false positive response.

Christopher Bollyn is a much-traveled international journalist currently based in Berlin, serving as European bureau chief for *American Free Press*. He has written extensively on a wide variety of subjects including the controversy surrounding computerized voting systems, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the many unanswered questions surrounding the 9-11 terrorist attacks.



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In 2000, South Africa's Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang pointed to pregnancy as likely to create a false positive HIV antibody test, especially in women who have been pregnant before.

"So can at least 63 other conditions, including tuberculosis, hepatitis, herpes, malaria, lupus, and flu—many of which are quite common in the African environment," he added.

A 1994 study published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* concluded that HIV tests were useless in central Africa, where the microbes responsible for tuberculosis, malaria and leprosy were so prevalent that they registered over 70 percent false positive.

But for the South African writer, Malan, AIDS is a political disease.

"The key battleground is public perception, and the most deadly weapon is the estimate," he claims.

In his view, the African AIDS estimates are based on flawed computer models. Real-life testing in South Africa, he claims, has shown that infection rates are much lower than UN estimates. WHO and UNAIDS used a computer simulator called Epimodel, which estimates infection rates based on HIV blood tests taken from a "small sample" of pregnant women.

A COMPUTER GAME

In 1999, Epimodel estimated AIDS would kill 250,000 South Africans, which would have made AIDS the cause of death for two out of three of South Africa's total 375,000 adult deaths.

Malan's thesis is that Epimodel failed its reality check and was quietly shelved and replaced with new computer models that progressively lowered the number of AIDS deaths in South Africa. Therefore, AIDS has become what he terms "something of a computer game" and the claim that 29.4 million Africans are "living with HIV-AIDS" doesn't mean that millions of people have been tested.

"It means that 29.4 million Africans are linked via enormously complicated mathematical and sexual networks to one of those women who tested HIV positive," he alleges.

Asked if UNAIDS produced its estimates about HIV and AIDS in Africa in this manner, UNAIDS spokesperson Dominique de Santis told *American Free Press*, "In a general sense, yes."

When confronted about the fact that HIV estimates in Africa may be skewed by false-positive results caused by more common African diseases, de Santis added: "I've never quite heard that."

According to Malan, it was estimated that one in four South African university students carried the AIDS virus and were "doomed to die within 10 years," but tests conducted on 1,188 students at Rand Afrikaans University found on-campus prevalence to be 1.1 percent. Additionally, 12 percent of the employees of South Africa's major banks were projected to have AIDS, but testing of 29,000 bank staff found only 3 percent tested positive.

He further claims that in Grahamstown prison in South Africa, where a large number of HIV tests are done every week, the infection rate is between 2 to 4 percent and overall, the HIV infection rate in all South Africa's prisons is 2.3 percent, contrary to a published estimate of 60 percent.

ONE IN SEVEN

The BBC reported that "one in seven" teachers in Malawi would die of AIDS in 2002, yet Malan contests that figure, claiming the death rate for schoolteachers in Malawi from all causes was less than 3 percent.

When he visited the worst affected parts of Tanzania and Uganda in 2001, he was overwhelmed with stories about the horrors of AIDS, which the locals call "slims," and discovered that statistical corroboration was hard to come by.

Paul Bennell, a health policy analyst with Sussex University's Institute for Development Studies in England, agrees that there is an "extraordinary" lack of information on mortality rates in Africa.

"Most countries do not even collect data on deaths. There is virtually no population-based survey data in most high-prevalence countries. The epidemic is not growing in most countries. HIV prevalence is not increasing as is usually stated or implied," adds Bennell.

South African-born physician Joseph Sonnabend, one of the pioneers of AIDS research and founder of the American

"A 1994 study concluded that HIV tests were useless in central Africa, where the microbes responsible for tuberculosis, malaria and leprosy were so prevalent that they registered over 70% false positive."

Foundation for AIDS Research, says the AIDS establishment is extremely skilled at "the manipulation of fear for advancement in terms of money and power."

He left the AIDS foundation he created in protest, alleging his colleagues began exaggerating the threat of a generalized AIDS pandemic in order to increase "AIDS" visibility and add urgency to their grant applications."

President George W. Bush's HIV-AIDS initiative will provide \$15 billion for 12 sub-Saharan African nations, Haiti

and Guyana, and much of the money will be used to purchase pharmaceuticals.

Shortly after Congress approved the initiative last May, Bush named Tobias, former chairman and chief executive officer of the pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co., to direct the effort.

"AIDS has already killed almost 20 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, where it is the No. 1 cause of death and, without intervention, it will claim the lives of one quarter of the population in the next decade," he said at the White House ceremony on July 2.

WHO and UNAIDS recently released a plan to provide 3 million people in developing countries with antiretroviral pharmaceuticals by the end of 2005. The effort will require \$5.5 billion in funding over the next two years.

UNAIDS spokesperson Dominique de Santis says her agency expects to receive \$2 billion from the Bush initiative in 2004. Like other officials from international organizations, she roundly dismisses the claims made by Malan and experts named in this article.

Ben Plumley, chief executive at UNAIDS, responded to Malan's charged by warning that underestimating the scope of the epidemic could divert investment and interest in the AIDS epidemic. He regarded estimates of the number of AIDS cases worldwide as reliable. He is a former external relations executive with the pharmaceutical firm Glaxo Wellcome, now GlaxoSmithKline, which produces the controversial AIDS medication known as AZT.

GlaxoSmithKline and Eli Lilly are both leading contributors to the Republican Party. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, President Bush received nearly \$500,000 of the \$27 million contributed by pharmaceutical companies during his 2000 presidential campaign. ★

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Senate May Slaughter Pork

Thousands of excessive spending projects on the block

It is without end, the gluttonous amount of pork that keeps emerging from a Senate spending bill Democrats say they will try to kill when the new session begins Jan. 20. If they succeed, taxpayers will save billions in local pork projects and spending for several government agencies will be held at fiscal 2003 levels—effectively a cut, since all bureaucracies get annual increases, worthy or not.

The legislation, which provides funding for 11 departments, has passed the House but Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) said Democrats would try to block it in the Senate, leaving spending at last year's levels under a continuing resolution.

If the bill passes, it will help pay for a new library at a community college in Mobile, Ala., a traffic light in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. and a center for elderly people in Valdez, Alaska among numerous "earmarks." Most pork bills are "earmarks," meaning the funds have to be used for the specified purpose. It includes spending for local libraries, museums, city parks, bridges lighthouses, and other projects.

Such projects are obviously local in nature, but congressmen see them as political trophies. They tend to oppose pork anywhere except in their own state or district, unless horse-trading for votes. But in addition to the absurdity of taxpayers from throughout the nation paying for monkey bars at a local playground, ultimate costs go even higher.

Economists advise that for every dollar the federal government takes from a taxpayer's pocket, 40 cents is lost in paper shuffling by Washington bureaucrats. So every dollar that goes into the local playground costs the nation's taxpayers \$1.40.

Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), hoping to force "thousands and thousands" of pork projects to be killed, pointed to another "earmark": \$100,000 for the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tenn.

Earlier, Flake cited a \$450,000 earmark for the Johnny Appleseed Heritage Center in Ashland County, Ohio. Born John Chapman in 1774, Johnny Appleseed traversed the back country, planting bushels of apple seeds. But Flake objects to honoring Johnny at taxpayers' expense.

"Every time we have one of these year-end omnibus appropriations bills, it always becomes sweetheart deal time," said Rep. John Duncan Jr. (R-Tenn.).

"Although they are faced with a \$500 billion deficit, members of Congress are finding the time to pile on the pork," said Citizens Against Government Waste, a non-partisan watchdog group.

The newly uncovered pork includes:



- \$725,000 for the Please Touch Museum, a children's museum in Philadelphia.
- \$150,000 for the Call Me Mister program, run by Clemson University in South Carolina and three historically black colleges to provide scholarships for black men who want to be elementary schoolteachers.
- \$100,000 for renovation of the Coca-Cola building in Macon, Ga.
- \$270,000 for potato storage research in Madison, Wis.

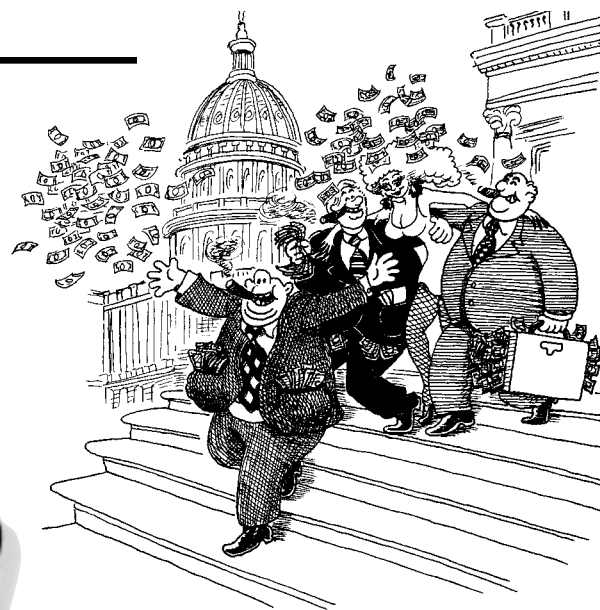
"Economists advise that for every dollar the federal government takes from a taxpayer's pocket, 40 cents is lost in paper shuffling by Washington bureaucrats."

- \$150,000 for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (carry the tray carefully, dear).
- \$300,000 for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum at Kansas City, Mo.
- \$1 million for a recreational bike and pedestrian path in Mercer, N.J.
- \$900,000 for the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, Ill.
- \$2 million for the "First Tee" program to "give young people of all backgrounds an opportunity to develop, through golf and character education, life-enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship."

BAN GUN REGISTRY

After the omnibus bill is killed, parts of it should be resurrected as stand-alone legislation, including protection for gun owners. Veterans' benefits also deserve approval as stand-alone legislation.

House Republicans inserted language in the omnibus



bill to prevent federal law enforcement from maintaining a 90-day database on gun buyers. It requires the destruction of background checks on gun buyers within 24 hours of a legal purchase. The FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives currently maintain these files for 90 days.

The core issue here is not days or months but attempts by foes of the Second Amendment to build a national registry of all gun owners. Felons lose the constitutional right to vote or own guns. But gun foes hope, as they privately acknowledge, to have the database evolve into a permanent federal registry of all gun owners. Extend the life of the database to 90 days, then a year, while bleating about "guns and terrorists." When the public gets used to a one-year database on an individual gun buyer, make it permanent, and it becomes a federal gun registry.

Predictable howls were heard from gun foes, who insisted that the 1993 Brady bill, which required the background checks, would be undermined. This gun-control law was named for James Brady, White House press secretary who was shot and paralyzed in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in 1981. The 24-hour period was extended to 90 days on order of then-President Bill Clinton.

Senate Republican leaders have remained silent on the gun provision. Attempts to get their reaction were refused not only to AFP but to the mainstream media, too. Whether they support the gun measure as stand-alone legislation may depend on what senators hear from their constituents.

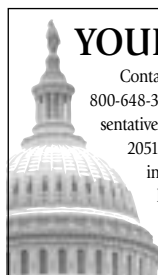
"They can and quite frankly should keep records on criminals and people who are denied" gun purchases, said Chris Cox, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. "But the federal government has no right to build a database on law-abiding gun owners, or any Americans who have been approved to own a gun."

MILKING IT

The dairy industry contributed to most members of a House committee who voted nearly in lockstep against banning the sale of meat from ill or disabled animals, such as the one that tested positive for mad cow disease.

Political action committees representing dairy farmers contributed funds to 33 of the 51 members of the House Agriculture Committee, an Associated Press examination of campaign reports shows. Of the 33, 28 voted against the ban on marketing "downed" animals, four voted for it, and one didn't vote when it was defeated 202-199 in July.

The Senate approved the ban on a voice vote in November, but it was left out of the final compromise omnibus spending bill awaiting action in the Senate. ★



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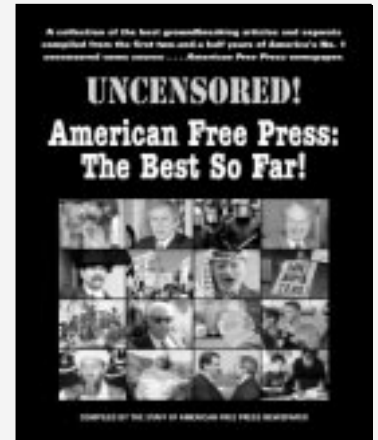
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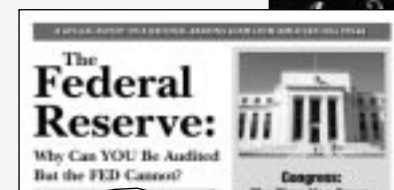


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The Inside Story

By Gordon Thomas

What Info Does Mossad Have About Death of Lady Diana?

Here's why the Royal Coroner must confront the role Israeli intelligence played in the death of beloved princess

On June 29, 1997, two months before Diana and her boyfriend Dodi al-Fayed died, a man arrived in a Paris apartment near the Pompidou Centre in the lively 4th Arrondissement in Paris.

His passport listed him as Maurice Rubenstein, a "financial consultant." Rubenstein was a *katsa*, a Mossad field agent. He had come to Paris to recruit Henri Paul, the assistant chief of security at the Ritz Hotel. To do so, he would use a mixture of inducements, including blackmail and threat.

From Paris, Rubenstein would mount an operation that raises critical questions about the deaths. It will be essential for the royal coroner, Dr. Michael Burgess, to get answers if his inquest is to finally resolve the truth about their deaths.

Ari Ben-Menashe, a former intelligence adviser to the Israeli government, who was consulted by Mohammed al-Fayed after their deaths, has confirmed "there is a very substantial file in Mossad's possession that would explain many things."

But over six years ago, when Rubenstein arrived in Paris, he was confident that those files would never surface.

Everything known about Henri Paul and the Ritz Hotel had been memorized by Rubenstein. The security chief acted as a chauffeur to celebrity guests.

The hotel had remained a meeting place for Middle Eastern arms brokers and their European contacts and Mossad needed an informer in the Ritz who would be able to report on their activities. Paul's responsibility for security meant every area of the Ritz was open to him,

and he would be in a good position to overhear their conversations, witness their behavior, see where they went, whom they met.

Information on his background had been unearthed by the resident *katsa* in Paris, including the fact that he was a bachelor, liked fast cars and sometimes hired a prostitute. This data was used against Paul.

Rubenstein also discovered Paul was receiving money from the paparazzi for providing details of guest movements, enabling the photographers to be in a position to snatch pictures.

By mid-August, 1997, that exchange had focused on the expected arrival at the Ritz of Diana and Dodi. They would stay in the fabled Imperial Suite.

All the Ritz staff was under strict instructions to keep details about Diana's arrival secret under penalty of instant dismissal. But Paul continued to risk his career by providing details of the forthcoming visit to several paparazzi. He received further sums of money.

Rubenstein decided the time had come to make his move.

What followed then developed a rhythm of its own.

"Rubenstein would have planted the idea he might be able to help, perhaps mentioning he worked for a company that was forever looking for ways to update its database and would pay good money to those who could help do so. From there, it would be a small step to tell Paul that many of the Ritz guests no doubt possessed the kind of information that would interest the company," Ari Ben-Menashe said.

Rubenstein told Paul what would be required: obtaining information on guests, even bugging their suites, and noting whom they entertained. Paul's money could be paid into a Swiss bank, or he could be paid in cash.

"All this would be standard for the successful conclusion of a 'cold-approach' operation," said Ben-Menashe.

Mossad sources I have spoken to postulated that Paul was "probably scared" at what he was being asked to do.

In those last days of August 1997, Paul continued to drink, to take pills, to sleep restlessly, to bully junior staff. He was a man teetering close to the edge.

Compounding the pressure was the forthcoming visit of Diana and Dodi. Paul had been put in charge of their security while they were in the hotel, with particular responsibility for keeping away the paparazzi. At the same time the photographers were calling him on his cell phone seeking information about the visit; he was being offered large sums of money to provide details. The temptation to accept was another pressure. Everywhere he turned, there seemed to be pressure.



Due to the efforts of investigators such as Gordon Thomas, a serious probe of Princess Diana's death is now being undertaken by British authorities.

On the night before Paul drove Diana and Dodi to their deaths (and his own), he had what turned out to be his final meeting with Rubenstein.

By now the Mossad agent knew that agents from other intelligence services were in Paris. The CIA and MI6 were trying to track what Diana planned next in her campaign to have landmines abolished. For French intelligence, she had also become a figure of intense interest. They too had a file on Paul—including his suspected links to MI6.

It was those links that Rubenstein now used to intensify pressure on Paul. He threatened to expose the Ritz security man to Mossad's own Arab contacts in the Arab world—a virtual guarantee that Paul would be killed.

The two men parted, leaving Paul in no condition to drive his Mini—let alone the Ritz's powerful Mercedes.

In a Mossad safe house, Rubenstein was awakened by a phone call at 1:58 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31, 1997. The caller worked in the Paris gendarmerie accident unit and had been recruited by Mossad some years before.

The man's news stunned Rubenstein. A Mercedes sedan had struck a reinforced concrete pillar on the west-bound roadway of the underpass beneath the Place de l'Alma, a notorious accident spot in the city. The dead were Diana, Dodi and Paul. The couple's bodyguard had been critically injured.

Hours after the accident, Rubenstein flew back to Tel Aviv, leaving in his wake questions that would remain unanswered. ★

The author of multiple books (*Gideon's Spies*, *Seeds of Fire*, etc.) which have sold more than 45 million copies worldwide, AFP Contributing Editor **Gordon Thomas** is a veteran correspondent and television commentator with wide-ranging contacts in the intelligence community. Although his work is widely known throughout Europe, AFP is his only American-based outlet.



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Inside the Sordid World of America's 'Moral Arbiter'

Head of Southern Poverty Law Center far removed from those in poverty—accused of degenerate behavior, immorality

In 1979, The Alabama Court of Civil Appeals heard the divorce proceedings (Case No. Civ. 2114) of Morris Dees and his one-time wife Maureene. The following contains excerpts from a legal brief detailing the lecherous behavior of Morris. AFP has excised some of the more abhorrent portions. Interested parties can read the entire complaint on-line at posse-comitatus.org/morris_dees_court_documents.htm.

At the time of the divorce, Morris's net worth, based upon his own calculations, was \$3,876,029. His annual income exceeds \$230,000, of which more than \$160,000 annually is derived from municipal bonds upon which Morris pays no income tax.

Although Maureene was subjected to a number of degrading sexual episodes by Morris during the marriage which will be discussed hereafter, neither Morris nor Maureene ever wanted or sought a divorce until Morris established his permanent relationship with Vicki Booker McGaha in August of 1977. It was Morris's absolute refusal to give up his mistress, whom he was supporting and whom he had made pregnant, that directly caused termination of Maureene's marriage and forced her to institute these divorce proceedings. . . .

On March 4, 1979, Maureene walked naively into the trap which Morris had set. On that date, she flew to Washington, D.C., where she met Brian O'Daugharty. Maureene knew Mr. O'Daugharty in connection with her work on the National Endowment, and he was the director of the Media Arts Program. Morris had told her that she could see anyone she wanted, as long as she was discreet, and her flight to Washington was booked under the name of Better [sic] Foster. Maureene and O'Daugharty had dinner together on the night of March 4 and returned to her hotel room. When they were in bed together, Morris and a Montgomery private detective, both of whom had been hiding in the bathroom, jumped out and started taking photographs, Morris said word in substance as follows: "Alright sister, you wanted a divorce. Now I want one, because I've got you where I want you."

Morris was acting crazy, and Maureene thought he was going to kill everybody in sight. He told her that he had five detectives with him. He hit her and gave her a busted jaw.

Maureene was literally forced to file suit for divorce in March 1979, because of Morris's obstinate refusal to give up his mistress who he was then supporting and who had become pregnant by him. . . .

Later in the marriage he repeatedly told her of women that he had had sexual intercourse with during the marriage.

He said further that he enjoyed trying to turn on gay people and he expressed a desire to have an experience with a gay.

Early in the marriage, Morris gave her a book on "open marriage" and started encouraging her to have sexual intercourse with other men. During the year or so after they were married, Maureene became aware that her husband was having an affair with a woman named Becky Logan. During the same period, she began receiving anonymous telephone calls concerning her husband and a black woman in town.

[The complaint then lists a host of other women with whom Morris had affairs.]

[Name deleted for privacy], Maureene's daughter by a

previous marriage, is 18 years old. She was seven years old when her mother and Morris married, and she has lived with them in the house at Mathews from then until the separation. [Name deleted] testified that, in the summer of 1977, Morris attempted to molest her in the following incident: One night Maureene and Morris were sitting drinking wine and discussing a case Morris was trying. She was with them. Around 11 or 12 o'clock Maureene went to bed and [name deleted] stayed up with Morris discussing the case. Morris kept offering [name deleted] wine, some of which she accepted. At Morris' suggestion, they went outside to the pool, and he suggested that they go for a swim, but [name deleted] was tired and declined. She went to her room and then went into the bathroom. Looking out the window, she saw Morris in the bushes beside the bathroom window looking in. . . . Two months later, she was asleep one night and Morris entered her room from [another one of Morris's daughter's room] through the bathroom. He was in his underwear and he sat on the bed where [name deleted] was lying on her stomach facing away from the door. He touched her on the back and woke her up. He told her that he had brought her a present, and he presented her with a [sexual instrument]. He plugged it in and said he had brought it to her. He proceeded to rub it on her back and said, "Let me show you how to use it." She said that's not necessary, but he started to place it between her legs when she raised her voice and said "no" loudly. All he had on was a pair of bikini underwear shorts. About two hours later, she had fallen back asleep and he came back in. He brought the [sexual instrument] with him, plugged it in and said again, "Let me show you how to use it." He tried to show her again by putting it between her legs, but she raised her voice again and he stopped. She did not tell her mother about this incident until the separation when they moved out of the Mathews house in the spring of 1979. . . . ★

The Side of Morris Dees You Never See . . .

By Bill White

Born Morris Seligman Dees in 1936 in Alabama, Dees has led an undistinguished life until the early 1960s. In 1961 he took on his first case of note, and opened up a direct mail business.

Dees made millions in 1960s selling products via direct mail, and came to the attention of the Democratic Party and several of its candidates over the next decade.

Dees headed the direct mail fundraising efforts of noted Democrats such as Jimmy Carter and Ted Kennedy, all the while parlaying the Democratic Party's fundraising lists into the direct mail activities of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which he founded in 1971.

By the end of 1999, Dees had accumulated over \$100 million as a result of his efforts.

Despite a number of scandals in his life, including wife beating, adultery, an attempt to molest his stepdaughter, public statements denigrating blacks and an illicit relationship with his son's wife, he has remained protected from criticism because of his political contact's strong influence over the media, influence which has shut down talk radio shows mid-caller when callers have attempted to confront Dees about his past.

No one who knows Dees believes he founded the SPLC out of conviction. Rather, he founded it very clearly

out of an attempt to make money picking on the easy target of the Ku Klux Klan.

Dees purports to be an avowed anti-racist who has made public statements against black lawyers, who has been accused of discriminating against black people in hiring, and who has often used derogatory terms to refer to his black employees. In the words of former employee Donald Jackson, "the [SPLC] is guilty of some of the same things that they are out there protesting against and filing lawsuits over."

According to an expose published in *The Montgomery Advertiser* in 1994, 12 of the 13 former black employees of the SPLC they interviewed reported being racially harassed. Several said the law center was "like a plantation."

Dees told a local newspaper that he didn't hire black attorneys because he didn't feel they were as competent as whites.

At one appearance in Toledo, Ohio, on the radio program of Carl Dettmer, 1370 AM, a caller, Jim Floyd, confronted Dees. He asked Dees, "Did you really [sexually assault] your 16-year-old stepdaughter, as sworn in your court papers?" Silence followed, and then there was the sound of Dees throwing something. Dees then ran out of the room. ★

Bill White operates the web site Overthrow.com.



DEES

FBI Memo Says Dees Had Informant Near McVeigh

Continued from Page 1

FBI director makes a reference to an SPLC informant being in place at the Elohim City "extremist" compound, on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border and confirms that a telephone call was made to that informant on April 17, 1995, two days before the bombing.

Although the names of the caller and the person being called were blacked out by FBI censors, it has been publicly documented that, around that time, Timothy McVeigh made a telephone call to Elohim City seeking to contact Strassmeir, who was reportedly unavailable to take the call.

The FBI memo further indicated that a person at Elohim City had "a lengthy relationship with one of the two indicted [bombing] conspirators" (McVeigh and Nichols). Multiple independent investigators have documented that Strassmeir was with McVeigh on several occasions over an extended period, prior to the bombing.

The FBI, Lyons and others—including the SPLC—have insisted that this did not prove Strassmeir was involved in the bombing. However, it is now clear—based on separate information, coupled with revelations in Freeh's memorandum—that the SPLC informant was indeed Strassmeir, the former foreign intelligence agent, living illegally in the United States and posing as a neo-Nazi.

Cash and Charles concluded that "references to an informant working for the SPLC at Elohim City on the eve of the Oklahoma City bombing raise serious questions as to what the SPLC might know about McVeigh's activities during the final hours before the fuse was lit in Oklahoma City—but which the SPLC has failed to disclose publicly."

Both independent investigators reported that when Dees of the SPLC was recently publicly pressed to explain what his informant was doing at Elohim City, he offered the following explanation: "If I told you what we were doing there, I would have to kill you."

Dees further added that the SPLC didn't have McVeigh on its "radar screen" until after he was arrested.

That appears to conflict with the evidence. McVeigh was under close observation by the SPLC's allies at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as much as a year before the bombing. Both organizations regularly trade information gleaned from their respective informants.

Although the FBI Teletype indicated Strassmeir was expected to flee into Mexico "in the near future," Cash and Charles point out that "none of the offices that received this FBI director's memo [was] located in the state of Texas, where Strassmeir had just arrived and was expected to make an escape across the Mexican border."

The FBI made no effort to visit North Carolina, where Lyons had an office and where Strassmeir hid out before his flight to Mexico.

A great deal of praise has been attributed to the doggedness of the investigators, Cash and Charles and to the *McCurtain* (Oklahoma) *Daily Gazette*, whose journalists have continued to pursue this story.

According to the *Gazette*, "Although Strassmeir was wanted for questioning in the Oklahoma bombing at the time of his escape and was illegally in the United States, those facts were known to attorney, Kirk Lyons, when his client fled across the Mexican border."

The *Gazette* says that Lyons "has never been charged with harboring a fugitive, obstructing justice or disciplined by the North Carolina Bar Association for his admitted role in assisting a client elude federal authorities."

The totality of the evidence, including the newly dis-



Did the Southern Poverty Law Center have an informant close to OKC bomber Tim McVeigh? And if they did, what are the implications of this revelation?

covered FBI memo, suggests Strassmeir was protected by the FBI, even before the Oklahoma bombing. Initially, the office of the BATF in Tulsa, Okla., had sought an arrest warrant for Strassmeir after one of its informants, Carol Howe, announced Strassmeir's reported plans to bomb a U.S. federal building. That was in February 1995—two months prior to the actual Oklahoma bombing.

The *Gazette* alleges that Bob Ricks, the special agent in charge of the Oklahoma City FBI office, enlisted the assistance of the U.S. attorney in Tulsa, Steve Lawrence, to prevent the arrest of Strassmeir and a planned raid on Elohim City where Strassmeir was living.

In preparation for McVeigh's trial, his attorney, Stephen Jones, requested FBI documents relating to its surveillance of Elohim City. However, the FBI claimed it had no information linking McVeigh to anyone there—a claim now contradicted by the new information.

The FBI still stands by its official "Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols did it" line and says, "These conspiracy stories just waste our time."

Even though Strassmeir spent some seven years in the United States, including time after his visa had expired, he was never interviewed by the FBI, despite the fact that he

was associating with neo-Nazis who were under investigation. In fact, several of them were convicted for a nationwide bank-robbing spree.

It has been speculated that the FBI never needed to speak directly to Strassmeir because his handlers acted as his conduit to the Bureau and passed his information to the agency. That has been a long-standing strategy employed by the SPLC and the ADL in the handling of intelligence from informants and the subsequent conveying of that intelligence to the FBI and similar law enforcement bodies.

While the U.S. media has ignored the Strassmeir link, foreign journalists and news outlets have not.

In the June 8, 2001 issue of *The Times* of London, a story concluded that Strassmeir probably was an undercover operative. The story's author noted that Strassmeir can read Hebrew—Israel's state language—a consequence, it is said, of having had a girlfriend who served in the Israeli army—not exactly the typical choice of a neo-Nazi.

The *London Times* also pointed out that when Strassmeir first arrived in the United States he "found friends easily—retired Army officers, CIA veterans, history buffs—and became part of a network, powerful in the United States—a web of influence that stretches into the Pentagon and the federal agencies, in churches and boardrooms, on the oil rigs and building sites."

On at least two occasions in the past, Dees and the SPLC suppressed the role of Strassmeir in their statements about the circumstances surrounding the bombing. For example, the spring 2002 issue of Dees's *Intelligence Report* went so far as to refer to Strassmeir as "a German," not even mentioning him by name, even though Strassmeir was prominently mentioned in a book about the bombing which was being reviewed by Dees.

In fact, Dees has been quick to dismiss the charges about Strassmeir made by Howe, whom he dismisses as "a mentally unstable federal informant." In the summer 2001 issue of his *Intelligence Report*, Dees described Howe's story as being "confused" even though it had been clearly documented in federal reports prior to the bombing, and not afterward as Dees claimed.

More questions will likely be raised about Dees's role vis-à-vis his knowledge of Strassmeir, and his relationship with him. There are those who feel Dees should now be indicted for suppressing information critical to untangling the truth about the worst terrorist event on American soil prior to Sept. 11, 2001. ★

Dees Should Be Probed

By Willis Carto

Morris Dees has never met an anti-communist he didn't dislike, say people who know him. As a highly successful fundraiser, Dees has propelled his Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) into the front rank of the numerous anti-anti-communist organizations in the U.S. and he has raised hundreds of millions of dollars.

Dees specializes in mailing scary letters to frighten Jews and blacks, telling them that unless they fork up

wads of dough, the Nazis, the militia and the KKK will get 'em. Observers of the SPLC usually comment on the vast dollar reserves it has—at least \$100 million at last count.

Dees apparently likes to spend his money on good living for himself rather than on hunting down Nazis.

Now, Dees is implicated in the developing scandal of the Oklahoma City bombing of April 19, 1995.

Can Dees have been involved in the planning or execution of the bombing itself? The incident served as a great issue on which he raised more money for the SPLC to bank.

Perhaps it is time for a grand jury to look into the operations of Morris Dees and his habitual profiting from violence that he can blame on "Nazis." ★

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Commentary

By Paul Craig Roberts

Police State Feeding on the Innocent

Every day, many Americans commit crimes of which they are unaware. Many of the crimes with which Americans are charged are absurd. One recent case is that of three Americans sentenced in federal court to eight years in prison for importing lobster tails from Honduras in plastic bags instead of cardboard boxes. Why this matters, no one knows. Moreover, the importers of the lobster tails have no responsibility for how the seafood was packed in Honduras.

Federal prosecutors decided that Honduran law was violated by the shipment, because a few tails (3 percent of the shipment) were less than 5.5 inches in length.

The Honduran government objects to this interpretation of its law and filed a brief in behalf of the defendants, but federal judges nevertheless convicted their fellow citizens for violating the Lacey Act by importing "fish or wildlife taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any foreign law."

To ensure a harsh sentence, the prosecutors loaded up charges against the defendants by bringing indictments for smuggling, money laundering and conspiracy. Smuggling is inferred from a few of the tails allegedly being undersized and illegal. Money laundering is charged because the lobster purchase and sale required money to be deposited in a bank. Conspiracy is charged on the basis that more than one person was involved.

In other words, these are totally trumped-up crimes.

The upshot is that three Americans have had their lives ruined by federal prosecutors and judges for violating a Honduran law that the Honduran president, attorney general and embassy say is not on their country's statute books.

For reasons no one knows, federal prosecutors spent six months trying to find reasons in Honduran law to indict the American importers of the lobster tails. If it took federal prosecutors six months to find something in foreign law that they could allege the importers to have violated, how could the importers possibly have known that they could be imprisoned for the ordinary everyday business of importing lobster tails for restaurants?

Liberty is extinguished where law is so broad and vague as to entrap even the most honest citizen.

Naive Americans tend to regard miscarriages of justice, such as the lobster import case, as rare examples of legal idiocy that somehow will be corrected by the legal system. However, such cases are routine and are seldom if ever corrected. In America today, law enforcement boils down to the exercise of power by unaccountable prosecutors. Justice is not served by ensnaring the innocent.

Married men who happen to own guns are being turned into felons by wives who ask for restraining orders when they file for divorce. Prosecutors interpret restraining orders as criminalizing prior gun ownership. A restraining order turns a law-abiding gun owner into a criminal. It is an example of unconstitutional *ex post facto* law at its worst.

Americans are uninformed about the tyrannical nature of their criminal justice system. Until they become personally ensnared in the system, most Americans believe police and prosecutors would never knowingly convict an innocent person. Once they experience the system, Americans are terrified by the system's indifference to whether a defendant has actually committed a crime.

Mary Sue Terry, former attorney general of the Commonwealth of Virginia, says the concern of the justice system "has turned from seeking truth to seeking convictions, and our post-conviction efforts are focused on denying any further review."

Ever-widening arrest powers are bringing a reality check to more and more Americans. Just before Christmas, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a police officer who discovers contraband in a car could arrest every occupant if no one admits to ownership of the illicit item. Warn your teenagers never to get into a car with acquaintances who might have alcohol, drugs or weapons. And be careful whose car you get into yourself.

In a recent *Cato Policy Report*, Erik Luna says that "the



sheer number of idiosyncratic laws and the scope of discretionary enforcement" are making criminals out of many Americans who had no intent to break a law or any knowledge that they had. A country that goes out of its way to imprison the innocent has no business preaching democracy to the world. ★

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Nationally syndicated columnist, **Paul Craig Roberts, Ph.D.**, a former editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, is the author of several books. He has been associated with the Hoover Institution, and the Institute for Political Economy and from 1981 to 1982 served as assistant secretary of the treasury for economic policy.



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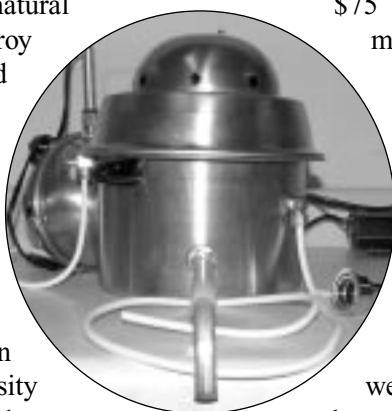
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Inside Iraq

By Gordon Thomas

Search for Saddam's Loot Goes Corporate

The former Iraqi strongman may have hidden billions secretly across the globe

Saddam Hussein has undoubtedly stashed away huge sums of money and may even have secretly purchased real estate across the globe. Now the investigation to find his ill-gotten gains could be placed in the hands of some of the world's biggest security companies.

Recent estimates of his hidden fortune have varied from \$20 billion to a staggering \$60 billion but no one knows for sure how much he and his sons stole from Iraqi coffers, especially in those years when the country was amassing considerable wealth from its oil exports.

One of several companies capable of tracing missing assets is the giant U.S. security consulting firm, Kroll Associates, which is based in Manhattan and has offices in major capitals.

Its founder, Jules Kroll, has a reputation as a fearless financial investigator and over time established an equally formidable reputation as one of the foremost global authorities on security and company fraud. Over six feet tall, with graying hair and always dressed in expensively tailored suits, he nowadays more resembles a Wall Street stockbroker than a private detective.

In 1985, he was hired by a Senate subcommittee to trace billions of dollars the late Ferdinand Marcos, and his wife Imelda, purportedly held in overseas accounts during their reign as president and first lady of the Philippines.

In 1986, Kroll was tasked by the Haitian government to locate the fortune of the infamous former head of the country, Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. It did not take Kroll long to find Duvalier accounts in America and Europe.

Then after the first Gulf War, the Kuwaiti government turned to him for help in uncovering Saddam Hussein's hidden loot in order to seize it as reparation for his invasion of Kuwait and the torture and killing of many of its people. Little is known about the success or failure of that particular investigation.

In response to a call this week from *American Free Press*, Pat Wood, a senior Kroll Associates' representative, confirmed that the company had been hired by the Kuwaitis after the first Gulf War but, as yet, had not been approached to undertake a search for Saddam's missing millions.

MISSING BILLIONS

The problem of finding missing billions is complicated by the fact that dictators, organized crime bosses and crooked billionaires have, with arrival of the digital age, been able to move large sums of money across the globe into offshore accounts, trusts in countries like Liechtenstein and shell companies.

Robert Maxwell, one such billionaire who hired Jules Kroll to investigate his business enemies, months before he was assassinated, had perfected ingenious ways to launder money from Eastern Europe to North America.



MIRRORPIX/GETTY IMAGES

An American female soldier (pictured above) poses for a photograph as she reclines in a four poster bed at the palace of Uday, the son of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. U.S. soldiers from the 1-22 Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division (pictured below) play basketball at a hall room of an opulent palace that reportedly belonged to Saddam in Tikrit, 110 miles north of Baghdad. Recent reports have surfaced indicating that Saddam had squirreled away tens of billions of dollars prior to the U.S. invasion. A frantic search is now on to try and locate that stash.

After his death, the British government was unable to locate money he had hidden in trusts and offshore accounts across the globe.

Intelligence agencies like the CIA have also used money laundering schemes for secretly financing arms purchases for insurgents they were supporting. Richard Brenneke, a former CIA operative, has admitted that he once laundered money for covert operations. He set up complex transfers of money by cashier's check or courier, constantly changing codes he had devised for his banking communications. No transaction remained in any one of his accounts for more than 72 hours. Among the banks he favored were one in Panama and another in Brussels.

Saddam Hussein had decades in which to move money around the globe and some of it may never be traced. It will certainly be one of the issues for those interrogating him. ★



JEWEL SAMAD/AF/GETTY IMAGES

Bilderberg Big Wig Buys Positive Press

The New York Times, author of much fiction for a century, exposes the sins of other journalists who are paid for their kind words.

By James P. Tucker Jr.

In an astonishing development reminiscent of a billy goat protecting a cabbage patch, *The New York Times* has exposed how Conrad Black buys kind words from mainstream journalists and—another first—uses the banned “B-word,” or “Bilderberg.”

It was the first time in history the *Times* cited the secret meeting it has covered up for more than a half-century. It used the word accidentally several years ago when a Bilderberg luminary died after a meeting in France.

In the latest case, in a Dec. 22, 2003, story that begins on page one, use of “Bilderberg” must have been deliberate—although it turns up deep inside the story that was continued on page A-25.

In chastising Black, a Bilderberg luminary, the *Times* also broke new ground. Some *Times*-watchers say it is payback for the embarrassment the newspaper suffered in recent months when its own fake stories were exposed

(AFP, July 7, 2003 and subsequently).

Nevertheless, there are some red faces resulting from the *Times* story, which examines the high praise given Black's new biography of Franklin Roosevelt, which covers up the president's deliberately setting up the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941, to get America into a European war that became World War II. The *Times* reporters write of the accolades:

“Henry A. Kissinger writes, ‘No biography of Roosevelt is more thoughtful or readable.’ The columnist George F. Will calls the book a ‘delight to read.’ And William F. Buckley Jr. commends the biography as ‘a learned volume on FDR by a vital, critical mind.’”

Then it drops the bomb:

“For showing up once a year with Lord Black to debate the world's problems, each was typically paid about \$25,000. . . . Mr. Will and Mr. Buckley have since written positively about Lord Black in their columns, though without mentioning their business dealings.”

Right, Conrad Black, super-rich British media mogul, can get what he wants from publishers just by dropping the “B” (Bilderberg) word.



Richard Perle, Defense Department adviser, and Dwayne Andreas, former head of Archer Daniels Midland, were also on Black's gravy train, the *Times* reports. Kissinger, Perle and Andreas are longtime Bilderberg luminaries. Buckley attended one meeting years ago, and Will has also attended one.

Of these meetings, the *Times* reports, “One is known as the Bilderberg group, a conclave of business and political leaders from North America and Europe that meets each year for discussions that are off the record.” The *Times* has been represented at many Bilderberg meetings over the years but has never disclosed its own involvement.

In an interview, the *Times* asked Will if he should have told his readers of the payments he had received. “Will said he saw no reason to do so,” the paper reports, quoting him saying: “My business is my business. Got it?”

In a column in 2002 praising Black in his *National Review*, Buckley wrote of attending a dinner at Black's home in London. “In an effort to divulge all my personal conflicts in talking about the subject,” Buckley wrote, Black and his wife are among his “five closest friends in the entire world.”

Asked by the *Times* why he had not mentioned the payments he received, Buckley responded: “I didn't think that had any bearing whatsoever.” ★



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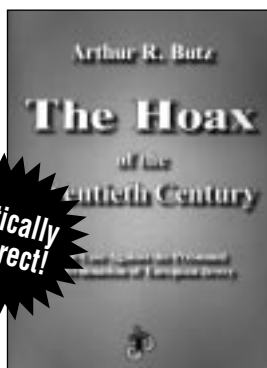
It's Back!



After 30 years, Dr. Arthur Butz's seminal work on “The Holocaust,” *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century: The Case Against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry*, is back. This new edition incorporates the original text without change, but with a new Foreword added by the author.

When first published back in 1976, this book set the academic Establishment on its ear. However, no one could prove any inaccuracies. The book stands as the most comprehensive analysis of “The Holocaust” ever printed. Were six million Jews really exterminated by the Nazis? This book supplies the truthful answers as to how and how many.

Hoax of the Twentieth Century, softcover, 502 pages, indexed, #385, \$25 (TBR subscribers may take 10% off the list price.) Add S&H: \$3 inside the U.S.; \$6 if mailed outside the U.S. Send payment to TBR Books, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003 or call toll free 1-877-773-9077 and charge your purchase to Visa or MasterCard.



“Attorney for the Damned” Takes No Prisoners With Bold Statements Against Zionism, Political Correctness

Injustice for All: The Legal Lynching of U.S. Dissidents

Defense attorney Edgar Steele—one of the most outspoken freedom advocates in America—dares to take on “politically incorrect” clients who’ve been demonized by the media. In this report, Steele outlines some of his famous cases and shows how the American court system is being manipulated by special interest groups with an alien political agenda. Eight pages. One copy is \$2; six copies are \$4, 40 or more copies are just 40¢ each. Send payment using the coupon on page 20 to AFP, 1433 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Call 1-888-699-6397 and charge to Visa or MasterCard. Great hand out.



Seeing Red in Black's White Lies About FDR

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a president about whom people have strong opinions. They either like him or they hate him. And these opinions will be carved in granite once they read Conrad Black's 1,250-page paean *Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Champion of Freedom*.

FDR took office in March of 1933 and died, at 63, early in his unprecedented fourth term in April of 1945. Thus began 12 years of federal government growth on a scale never before envisioned. This growth in government was accompanied by a building boom in federal edifices in Washington and throughout the country.

Tens of thousands of Depression-era unemployed building tradesmen came to the capital and throughout the country to work for one dollar an hour. And tens of thousands more people came to staff the buildings as soon as they were ready for occupancy by New Deal bureaucrats.

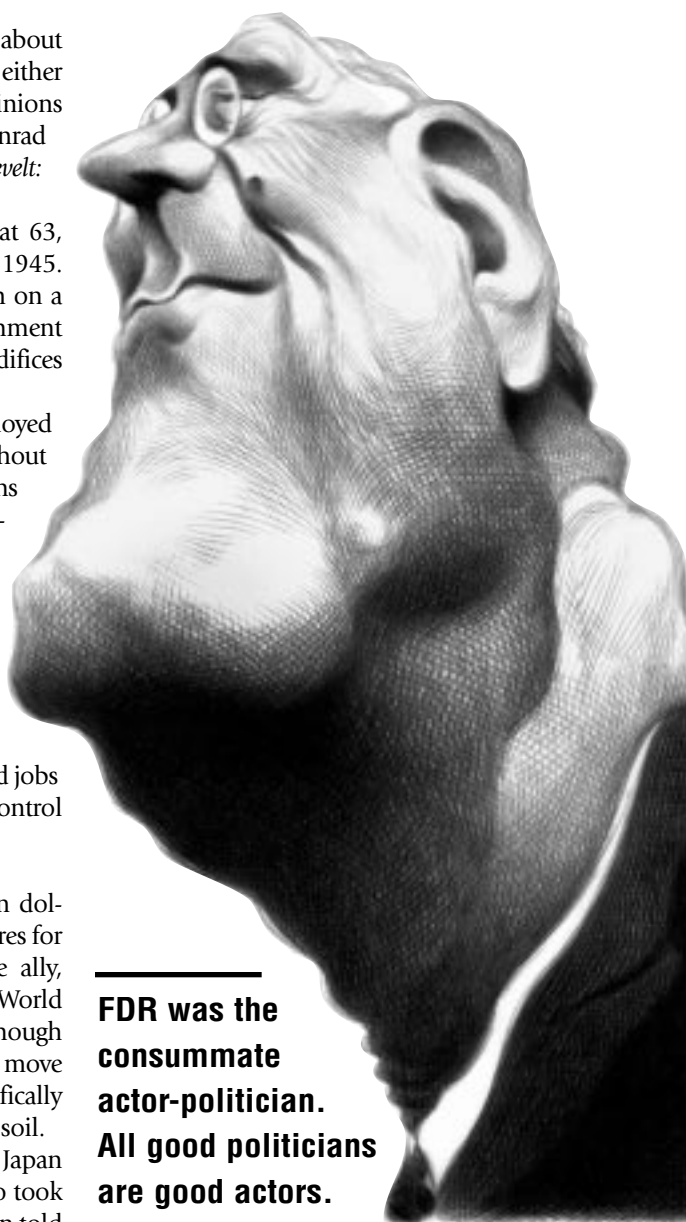
Agencies such as the National Recovery Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, the Railroad Retirement Act, Public Works Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority and many more provided jobs to a populace out of work. But the seeds of federal control and regulation were being sown wide and far.

DEPRESSION DOLDRUMS

Still the country was not out of the Depression doldrums. FDR began behind the scenes to stoke the fires for war. Lend Lease to Britain helped that erstwhile ally, which had not repaid the United States for aid in World War I, to carry on the fight against Germany even though Germany wanted peace in the West so that it could move against Stalin and destroy communism. FDR specifically promised that no Americans would die on foreign soil.

All the while he and his staff were busy pushing Japan into attacking Pearl Harbor. Any military man who took issue with FDR was fired. Adm. James O. Richardson told him that no senior officer in the military respected him and that the Pacific fleet should stay in California for security reasons and not be transferred to Hawaii. That was the end for Richardson. He was replaced by Adm. Husband Kimmel, who became the fall guy for the destruction of Pearl Harbor. FDR kept him ignorant about the impending Japanese attack.

FDR is considered by honest observers and historians to have been soft on communism and communists. But Black writes: "And he [FDR] believed that many ostensible communist supporters were really social democrats and that democracy would make inroads in communist



FDR was the consummate actor-politician. All good politicians are good actors.

regimes as the Western democracies were able to generalize prosperity." And more: "Roosevelt considered communism a brutal and bad system, and was confident that intelligent and humane, liberal, capitalist democracy would easily prevail over it."

The truth is the exact opposite. Roosevelt was surrounded by communists or communist sympathizers. Felix Frankfurter, a Harvard law professor, was active in many communist front organizations. His students took jobs throughout the New Deal administration. And FDR rewarded him with a judgeship on the Supreme Court.

Other top advisers to FDR were Russian-born labor adviser Sidney Hillman; Harry Hopkins, head of the Works Progress Administration; David Lilienthal, of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Raymond Moley, Advisory Council on Social Security, among others.

A must read for the serious student of communist influence in the FDR White House is *The Roosevelt Red Record and Its Background* by Elizabeth Dilling, who has crammed into 440 pages the names and records of the nefarious movers and shakers in Roosevelt's entourage—the various and sundry fellow travelers, communists and others of the left who saw in FDR a man who could and did put their agenda into action.

Black believes that FDR was the greatest American of the 20th century and together with Winston Churchill was the savior of the western world.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Domestically, FDR began a social welfare scheme called Social Security. In 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that Social Security was not a welfare program but a tax pure and simple. That was the basis for the welfare state. Recent actions of Congress, at President Bush's prodding, greatly added to the social welfare programs of FDR.

Black says that America is now the great stabilizing force in the world because FDR involved, with the cooperation of Congress, the United States in global matters in violation of the Monroe Doctrine.

Most Americans over 50 years of age know about the disaster that took place at Yalta. FDR turned over Eastern Europe to the Soviet Union. The peoples of those countries only in the 1980s broke the shackles of oppression. Alger Hiss, No. 2 man at the State Department, was a Soviet spy who attended the conference to advise Roosevelt.

FDR believed that Russia was entitled to those countries because of their sacrifices in the war against Germany.

One of FDR's undisputed accomplishments was the rebuilding of the Democratic Party. He brought North and South, blue collar and white collar, all races and religions together to fight for his programs. The Democratic Party took over Congress which empowered the president with almost unlimited power.

FDR was the consummate actor-politician. All good politicians are good actors.

In a major review of Black's book in *The Washington Times*, Michael P. Riccards writes: "Lord Black's study presents in a fair and judicious way this controversial figure. His judgments are positive, not just toward Franklin Delano Roosevelt but also toward the American people, who became generous allies and idealistic warriors in the last great crusade for worldwide freedom." Some freedom! ★



Roosevelt's Red Record Exposed!

Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, highly regarded leader of the America First movement before World War II and a target of Roosevelt's Mass Sedition Trial of 1944 persecuting those who opposed FDR's bellicose war policies, has exposed FDR's communist proclivities as well as anyone before or after. To get a copy of a new reprint of *Roosevelt's Red Record* (softcover, 439 pages, #383, \$15 minus 10% for TBR subscribers) by Mrs. Dilling, send payment to TBR, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. Add \$3 S&H inside the United States; \$6 per book outside the United States.

A former high-level congressional staff member who spent many years as an editor for a variety of independent media journals, **Vince Ryan** is now acting chairman of the members-only AMERICAN FREE PRESS READERSHIP COUNCIL (AFPRC), which gives AFP input on major issues affecting the newspaper. For information on AFPRC, contact AFPRC Secretary Lois Hodges at (202) 544-5977.



IRS Protester Given Outrageous Jail Sentence

Continued from Page 1

In his second trial, there was high drama when a bus full of potential jurors, being shuttled in from a secret location in Fort Worth, had to run a gauntlet of tax protesters brandishing a dozen large signs demanding justice for Simkanin and the impeachment of the trial Judge, John McBryde. The bussing of potential jurors to the federal courthouse from a remote assembly point was reportedly intended to shield them from protesters who were handing out pamphlets detailing the tax issue.

Later, the judge closed the courtroom during jury selection and ordered scores of Simkanin supporters and members of the public to leave the fourth floor of the courthouse. Protesters were not undaunted and purchased space on two billboards a few blocks from the federal courthouse, demanding that McBryde free Simkanin in the name of the Constitution.

The trial had all the hallmarks of a battle of wills between the presiding judge and Simkanin's defense lawyer, Arch McColl of Dallas.

When McColl tried to question witnesses on legal definitions of "employee" and "wages," the judge cut him off.

"We are not going to play this game," responded the judge when McColl asked if Social Security taxes were mandatory.

At one point, McBryde compared the tax honesty



RICHARD SIMKANIN

movement to a cult. He also ordered that Simkanin be kept in custody, on the basis that an informant purportedly told him Simkanin had threatened to kill federal judges.

Prosecutors put 11 witnesses on the stand to show that Simkanin knew what he was doing when he stopped withholding and paying taxes on employee wages. Accountants James Kelly and Fred Taylor testified that they repeatedly warned the defendant about his attitude to filing his taxes.

"He did not believe the Internal Revenue Code applied to him. I told him it did and that he would get into a lot of trouble," Taylor told the court.

During 13 hours of deliberations over the course of two days, jurors sent seven requests to the judge, asking about legal definitions and for clarification on whether they had to review evidence on who is actually required to pay taxes.

Ten of the felony counts had alleged that Simkanin failed to withhold \$139,000 in taxes from his employees. The remainder of the felony counts accused him of filing false tax refund claims to the tune of \$235,000.

The jury also found that he had not filed individual income tax returns between 1998 and 2001. Simkanin has said that his gross income for that period had been \$410,000.

The proceedings and the verdict appalled Simkanin's supporters. Most of them claimed he was

given no opportunity to conduct a minimum 30-day discovery period or to avail himself of standard pretrial rights concerning at least four of the 31 charges against him, including one of willful failure to file.

"I'm in shock, but the determined energy everyone feels to overturn this injustice will be a catalyst that will

"I'm in shock, but the determined energy everyone feels to overturn this injustice will be a catalyst that will expose the entire IRS fraud."

expose the entire IRS fraud," said Simkanin supporter Dottie Harrison, who promises to "fight on" with others to have Simkanin freed.

"This is his life, and he can't defend himself with the code book. And that is where the law is—in the code book," complained Vicki Ariatti, of Colorado.

"We're in a court of law, but we can't talk about the law," added Mike Owens of Denver during a break in the trial. ★

John Tiffany is an editorial assistant for *American Free Press* and has been active in the tax patriot movement for almost 30 years. He presently resides with his wife in the mountains of West Virginia near historic Harpers Ferry. He is also a frequent contributor to *The BARNES REVIEW* historical magazine.

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Letters

Don't Criticize Bush; Impeach Him Instead

EDUCATE CRITICS

Your critics who want you to stop criticizing President Bush are uninformed. Wartime or peacetime, this president should be impeached, not just criticized.

President Bush ignored the wishes of the world and brazenly sent our troops into Iraq. We have lost over 500 soldiers.

These warmongers, the president included, love war. War gives them police- state authority and deprives us of privacy and freedom. These long wars have bankrupted the United States.

ELMA AMBROSE
Redford, Michigan

TOO SOFT ON BUSH

I received AFP's issue 52 wherein you anticipated my thoughts in the commentary by Michael Collins Piper.

My answer is: No. You are not hard enough on Bush and all other crooked, lying politicians who are ruining our country with their anti-American actions.

EARL BARNUM
Klamath Falls, Oregon

KEEP QUESTIONING

In a recent issue of AFP, you asked about "criticism" and whether we readers of AFP thought that our newspaper of truth practiced that art unduly, toward the present administration.

My answer is a resounding no. Since when is asking questions considered to be "criticism"? I believe that question was

answered a long, long time ago, when someone stated that, "Even a cat can look at the king!"

P.J. BRESLIN
Newark, New Jersey

THREAT OF MARTIAL LAW

Gen. Tommy Franks—concerned patriot or stalking horse?

In AFP's Dec. 8 issue, Franks notes that a suspension of the Constitution and imposition of martial law would be in response to a demand by the people seeking safety and security from physical harm.

The general should be asked what our current crop of leaders in Washington—when they think the time is ripe—would do in response to a demand by the people that constitutional law not be replaced by martial law?

JAMES R. JACKSON
Copenhagen, Denmark

HOLD OTHERS ACCOUNTABLE

In my opinion, Paul Craig Roberts's article in the Dec. 8 issue, titled "Hold Neocons Accountable," misses the mark. Clearly, they are all guilty of treason. But, Colin Powell, President Bush, Congress and the media all "played ball." If you are just the "wheelman" in the preparation of a crime, you, too, are guilty of that crime.

JOE NOVELLI
Chehalis, Washington



EDWARDS PRAISED

Thank you for letting the young writer and statesman, James Edwards, write articles for the paper.

Edwards is what our movement needs if we are to regain control of our nation. He's young, yes, well read, informed—and on the right side.

KEN GILLESPIE
Memphis, Tennessee

KUCINICH A 'SOCIALIST'

Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich is no populist. We in Cleveland are highly taxed already, and there is not a socialist program he won't support.

While he is for some good things like workers' rights and opposing parts of the so-called Patriot Act, the fact is that he is a socialist Democrat. He also favors gun control, the UN and illegal immigration. If he wins, we all lose.

MIKE FLEHARTY
North Royalton, Ohio

LAROCHE BEST CANDIDATE?

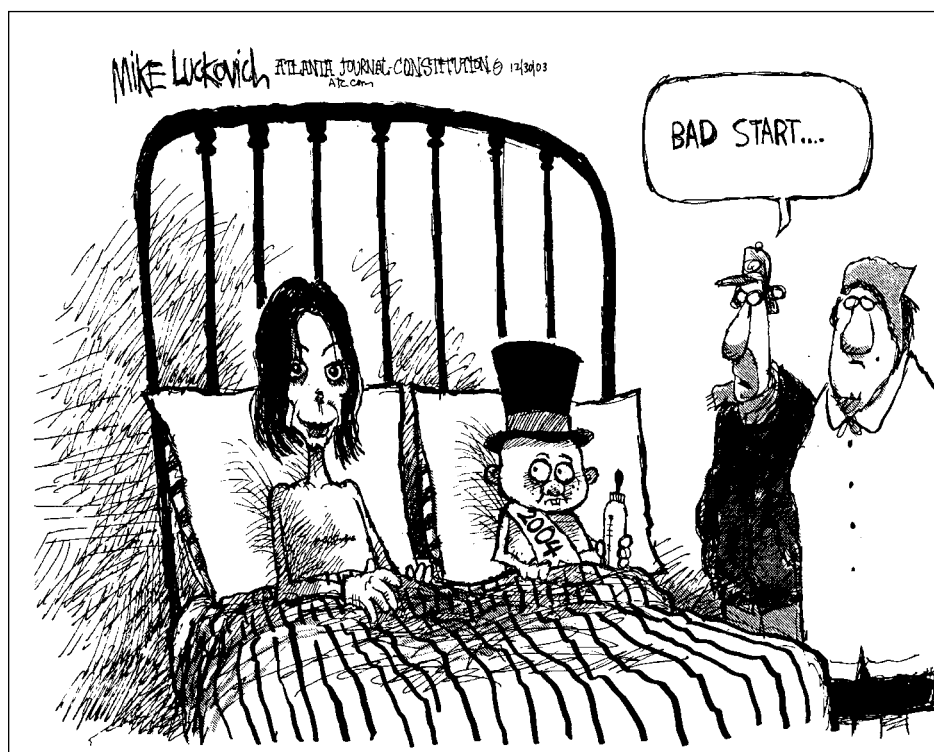
In his Dec. 15 article, Vince Ryan lists nine of the Democratic presidential candidates in the news and gives interesting opinions on their qualifications. Ryan refers to Lyndon Larouche as the "maverick perennial candidate."

This remark shows small mindedness and prejudice. LaRouche is superior in ability and promise as a contender for the presidency to any of the others.

CYRIL ECHELE
St. Charles, Missouri

IRS DUCKS QUESTIONS

Close to 4,000 people have been involved in "Operation Honest Inquiry" which has been an attempt to get the IRS and other elected officials to answer some very simple questions about the proper application of the income tax. In almost every case the government has refused to answer the questions or they provide answers which have nothing to do with the questions asked.



Did They Really Say That?

"After watching George W. Bush's press conference last Thursday night, I'm more convinced than ever: The entire White House press corps should be herded into a cargo plane, flown to an altitude of 30,000 feet, and pushed out, kicking and screaming, over the North Atlantic," wrote Matt Taibbi in *The New York Press*.

★ ★ ★ ★

"As far as I'm concerned, the whole country is a free-speech zone. If the Bush administration has its way, anyone who criticizes them will be out of sight and out of mind," said 65-year-old retired steel worker Bill Neel, who was arrested on Labor Day, 2002, for refusing to heed an order by the Secret Service and walk more than a third of mile away to a designated demonstration area before he could protest the president's visit.

★ ★ ★ ★

"I think George Bush is going to win in a walk," televangelist Pat Robertson said recently on his *700 Club* program on the Christian Broadcasting Network, which Robertson founded. "I really believe I'm hearing from the Lord it's going to be like a blowout election in 2004. It's shaping up that way."

Commentary

By Jim Hightower

CARTOON BY BOB GORRELL, © CREATORS SYNDICATE, 2003

Halliburton's 'Built-In Gouge'

Dick Cheney's old company, Halliburton, keeps getting stuck in its own Iraqi sand pit—and Cheney and his sidekick George W. are stuck there, too.

Halliburton, which continues to pay about \$150,000 a year to its old CEO Cheney, was first in line to get multi-billion-dollar, no-bid contracts from the Bush-Cheney regime for occupying and rebuilding Iraq. But don't think that any political favoritism was involved. No, no, Bush officials say, it's just that Dick's old company was the only one in the whole wide world qualified to do the job. Imagine, the only one.

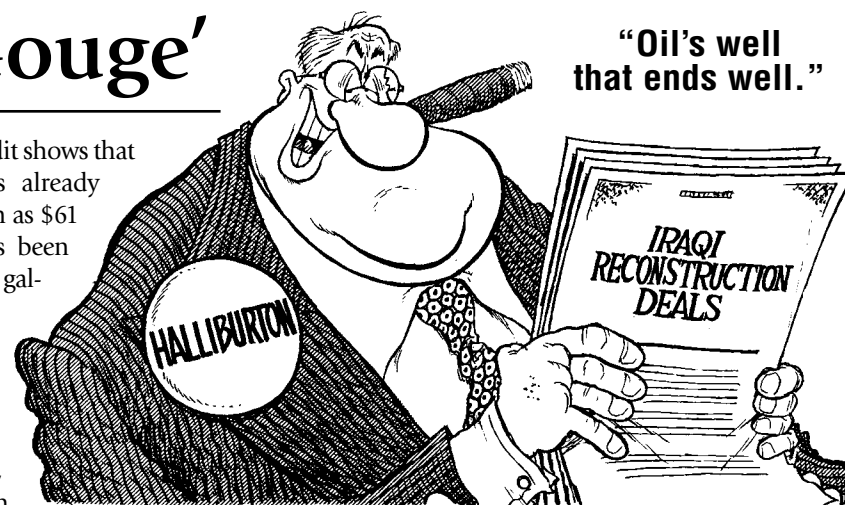
And what a job it has done. Take its contract for pro-

viding gasoline to Iraqis. An audit shows that the Houston-based giant has already gouged us taxpayers by as much as \$61 million on this no-bidder. It's been charging the Pentagon \$2.64 a gallon to haul gasoline from near-by Kuwait. Well, yes, say the Bushites, that's expensive, but, hey, it's costly to deliver gas in a combat zone.

Before you swallow that, note that the Pentagon's own energy support center delivers gasoline from Kuwait to Iraqi pumps in exactly the same war conditions for under a buck-twenty a gallon—less than half of Halliburton's charge. And Iraq's own state oil company does the same job for under a dollar a gallon.

Caught in Halliburton's web of deceit, George W. is now trying to get on the high road, declaring that "If there's an overcharge . . . we expect that money to be repaid." Repaid? What about charging his and Cheney's no-bid cronies with fraud?

But here comes the real stinker: Halliburton's contract from the Bushites actually gives the company an incentive to overcharge us taxpayers. It guarantees a



profit to Halliburton of between two and seven percent of its costs—meaning that the more cost it can put into each gallon, the more profit Halliburton gets.

It's a built-in gouge, brought to us by Bush and Cheney, who like to claim that they're running our government like a business. ★

Jim Hightower is a noted populist columnist from Texas. His books include *Thieves in High Places: They've Stolen Our Country and It's Time to Take It Back*, *If the Gods Had Meant Us To Vote, They Would Have Given Us Candidates* and *There's Nothing in the Middle of the Road But Yellow Stripes*.



It is obvious that the IRS cannot answer because to do so would admit to the fraud and extortion that has been carried out against every citizen of this country for decades.

DAVID ALLEN
Long Beach, California

OLDER & WISER

I am 102 years old in a wheel chair. I can't pay my subscription in one check so I have been sending a payment every few months.

AGNES L. BOSTON
Los Angeles, California

AND YOUNGER STILL

Thank you for your wonderful newspaper, I read it and agree with you. I am

94 years old. God's Blessing and my prayers that you can keep going with *American Free Press*.

KATHERINE PETERSON
Harcourt, Iowa

CONGRESS COIN MONEY

The story by Frank Wallace [in the Dec. 29 issue] is right to the point but in my opinion he doesn't go far enough.

It is true that the interest burden is a major factor in destroying our economy and one of the causes of driving industry out of the country and changing us to a service economy. But Wallace's solution will not stop deficit spending, which is the cause of government growth. The federal government is now suffering from an obesity that could be described as

obscene. The real solution, in my opinion, is to restore the constitutional monetary system. In that system Congress has the authority to "coin money and to regulate the value thereof." In addition, currency inflation should be made a capitol crime.

CHARLES DERER
Hudson, Florida

CAUSE OF WORLD WAR II

In the Dec. 15, 2003 edition of the

American Free Press a column by Paul Craig Roberts begins, "When Hitler began World War II..."

If Roberts had a true knowledge of history, he would be aware, as you well know, that what caused World War II was Poland being egged on by Britain and France, the impending Soviet aggression against Europe and the savage treatment of Germans living in Poland.

RALPH L. WILLIAMS
Hartwood, Virginia



Uncle Sam Gets Face Lift

The theme this year at the Coney Island Polar Bear Club's annual winter swim was American patriotism. The stars and stripes were prominently displayed in the outfits worn by both men and women as flags waved in the frigid air. Despite the fact that the number of Americans who "feel good" about our country and what it is doing around the world is waning, American patriotism seems to be something that can never be killed. Left, this shivering "patriette" emerges from the freezing water in the Brooklyn borough of New York.





Grungy toilet bowl? Clean it with Tang®!



Tough cuts of meat? Cook them in tea!



Cracked plaster? Patch it with white glue and baking soda!



"Fix Your Car For Free!"

(By Frank K. Wood)

If you want the secret, inside information that gets you free car repairs, free home improvements, and the know-how to fix almost anything in your home for pennies, you need *"Easy Does It — Cheap and Simple Ways to Solve Common Household Problems."*

Save big money repairing your furniture, floors, carpets, clothing, shoes, and hundreds of other items — all with common products you most likely have at home. Amaze neighbors with a lush garden and lawn that you hardly lift a finger for (and spend almost no money on). This one-of-a-kind volume of insider secrets shows you how to solve nearly every kind of household repair for free or nearly free.

The authors of this book by FC&A Publishing in Peachtree City, Georgia, provide hundreds of unbeatable, money saving tips with full explanations.

- ▶ Repair paint scratches on your car ... with crayons.
- ▶ Banish ants ... with an orange smoothie.
- ▶ You won't believe what you can use to fix a crack in your windshield or window.
- ▶ Stop mosquitoes from biting and protect yourself from deadly West Nile virus. This common household item may deter the bloodsuckers better than commercial insect repellent, and it's much cheaper!
- ▶ Free miles! Get 5-to-10 more miles per gallon when you drive. Just check one thing in your car.
- ▶ Soggy bread — yuck! When freezing bread, put one of these in the bag, and when the bread thaws it will be free of dampness.
- ▶ Let's face it — wrinkles, puffy eyes, and a saggy jaw can be a real pain. Yet you can fight off the ill effects of aging with an inexpensive cream you probably have in your medicine cabinet. No fooling!
- ▶ Cut your heating and electric bills by hundreds of dollars each year with these practical ideas.
- ▶ Clear up carpet stains — no matter the spill.
- ▶ Clogged drains? Some baking soda, and two other "magic" ingredients will have them flowing freely in no time.
- ▶ How to get your car fixed for free. Secret extended warranties revealed in this book. You could be entitled to 500 free repairs for older cars!
- ▶ Did you know some of the best stain removers are common household products you use all the time! Look in the book for some excellent examples!
- ▶ Yuck! Greasy build-up in the fan filter above your stove can be disgusting! Get rid of it with this tip.
- ▶ Deodorize your house for pennies. All it takes is a few cotton balls, wintergreen oil, and these directions.
- ▶ Clogged drain? Don't pour money down the drain by buying an expensive commercial product. Make your own and save!
- ▶ Keep your shower squeaky clean and never scrub mildew again! It's a snap when you keep this in your shower at all times.

- ▶ Forget freezer burn! Tips for frost free frozen food.
- ▶ Don't toss over-ripe bananas. They'll stay fresh and flavorful indefinitely with this easy trick.
- ▶ Keep bread as soft and fresh as the day you baked it with this simple storage secret. Pssst: You'll need a piece of fresh celery.
- ▶ Ants hate the smell of this scent ... but you will love it and how it keeps the ants out of your kitchen!
- ▶ No more gas guzzling! Improve your gas mileage by up to 30 percent and pocket the savings. Just check this one thing in your engine.
- ▶ The ants go marching home again when they encounter this sweet-smelling spice.
- ▶ Buying a new or used car off of a lot? Salespeople admit this simple but powerful secret gets you the lowest price practically every time.
- ▶ You'll smile at this unusual treatment for clothing stains. Don't miss this surprising tip.
- ▶ Lemons may make you pucker up, but they're also an astonishing remedy for this common ailment.
- ▶ You won't believe how much extra storage space these secrets give you. It's like adding a new room to your house.
- ▶ Brighten your whites by putting a little bit of this spice into your wash water!
- ▶ Save a bundle on heating and cooling bills with these smart tips.
- ▶ Rub stains out of carpeting with this school supply and watch the stains disappear.
- ▶ No-cost tip! Prevent weeds from growing in the cracks of cement or flagstone walks by pouring this on them!
- ▶ Remove built-up mineral deposits on faucets with the acidic but completely natural corrosive found here!
- ▶ Get rid of post-wash wrinkles without ironing with this amazing secret.
- ▶ Keep your garbage can smelling fresh by sprinkling a little of this in the bottom! Change it only once a month for a pleasing fragrance in that most unlikely of places.
- ▶ The five cleaning products you should never be without ... and they cost less than \$10 for the lot of 'em!
- ▶ Concerned about your plants when you go on vacation? Water them even while away with this practical tip.
- ▶ Get 50% more light from your light bulbs using an old rag. It's safe too!
- ▶ A sure-fire way to discourage your neighbor's dog from invading your yard.
- ▶ The secret to keeping your home appliances running 10, 20, even 30 years or more!
- ▶ Drive down your auto repair bills and make your old car run like new. Discover dozens of secrets that your auto mechanic doesn't want you to know.
- ▶ Want to look 10 pounds slimmer? Just wear this (and it's not a girdle) and your friends will be asking how much weight you've lost!
- ▶ Ants won't cross this line! Find out how to keep

- ants out of your house without toxic pesticides.
- ▶ It's like adding an extra room to your house! 5 easy storage solutions that will help keep you organized ... at little or no cost!
- ▶ Brighten your complexion! An unusual mix of cupboard ingredients can give your face a radiant golden glow.
- ▶ 11 money-saving tips to keep your home energy costs down through every season!
- ▶ Rx for scratched glasses. Make 'em like new again with furniture polish.
- ▶ Get white socks dazzlingly clean! Just soak them in a gallon of hot water mixed with two tablespoons of this.
- ▶ Give your vacuum cleaner more sucking power. Wet paper towel trick makes cleaning up a breeze.
- ▶ These pretty plants smell pretty bad to mosquitoes. Plant them near your patio for a pest-free zone.
- ▶ Make your roses bloom bigger and prettier this summer, and you won't have to slave hours in the hot sun! The secret? Tea leaves! Find out how they help.
- ▶ 3 simple, safe ways to unclog your drain.
- ▶ Repel ants with a line of flour!
- ▶ Remove old furniture polish, dirt, and grime with this cold drink and restore the original look to wooden furniture.
- ▶ Don't use that expensive commercial stain treatment! Thrifty homemade stain removers get rid of juice stains, oil stains, blood stains, ink stains and more!
- ▶ No one wants to use dangerous pesticides in their home, and never in the kitchen. See how you can use vinegar to keep ants away, cinnamon to ward off silverfish and flour to repel roaches.
- ▶ Don't let flies, gnats, or mosquitoes wreck your backyard barbecue. Drive them off, naturally, without smelly bug sprays.
- ▶ Say goodbye to stains! Stains in your washable fabrics don't stand a chance when you use vinegar. Mix it with equal parts of dishwashing liquid and water. 19 more clever uses of vinegar.
- ▶ Keep potatoes fresher longer by putting just one of these in the bin.
- ▶ Your refrigerator and stove can last years longer than they should. This simple tip costs you nothing, yet saves you big bucks over the years.
- ▶ The phone trick that burglar-proofs your home. They'll never guess you're away.
- ▶ Learn how many ways you can use baking soda, vinegar, wax, salt, milk, potatoes, and alcohol.
- ▶ A dozen ways to utilize an empty milk jug!
- ▶ Who says lemons are only good for cooking? They're also great for ant-proofing your kitchen. No insecticides needed!
- ▶ A recipe for a homemade carpet freshener that you can make in a jiffy that smells just like you want it to!
- ▶ Seven ingenious uses for those cardboard tubes inside paper towel and toilet tissue rolls!
- ▶ Moist and tender roast chicken — guaranteed! Simply pop one of these inside the chicken

before cooking!

- ▶ The simplest method to keep drains running clean requires no harsh chemicals or hard work.
- ▶ Cut your electric bill this easy way. The secret is found here.
- ▶ Sure-fire way to lower your summer electric bill a whopping 25%!
- ▶ Don't damage treasured family photographs! Follow this advice to keep your photos looking good for years.
- ▶ Yuck — dirt in your bathroom tile grout can be pretty disgusting! Discover an "elementary" way to erase the dirt for good.
- ▶ Wipe out weeds by pouring vinegar and salt directly over them? Yes, it's that easy.
- ▶ Your carpet's stained badly and company's due in 30 minutes. No sweat. A little ammonia cleans it good as new in just five minutes.
- ▶ Unbelievable! Adding this baking item to your wash water can brighten your whites! Learn what it is by reading this.
- ▶ Do away with expensive hair products! Discover an unusual substance that strips away soapy film and brings new life and bounce to your hair.
- ▶ Time-saving short cuts and inexpensive fixes for almost any problem ... using things already in your house!
- ▶ Did you know that a super solution of half water and half white vinegar can remove even the most stubborn carpet stains?
- ▶ Repel ants with this product in your pantry!
- ▶ If your clothes come out dull and faded, don't reach for that extra-strength detergent! It may be that your washing machine needs cleaning! Find out how to keep it happy and healthy.
- ▶ Don't waste money on expensive air fresheners. Now you can enjoy a fresh scent in your bedrooms, bathrooms and closets for next to nothing.
- ▶ Grease spot on a favorite blouse? The stain will disappear when you do this!
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